

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing iturin A and its homologues, comprising cultivating a *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues in a liquid medium containing 2 ~~mass%~~ mass or more of soybean powder or its extract, wherein said microbe produces to allow the microbe to accumulate iturin A and its homologues in the medium ~~in to~~ a concentration of 1.5 g/L or more.
2. (currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the said *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing~~ continues to grow when iturin A and its homologs are produced to a concentration of at least 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.
3. (currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that ~~has substantially no ability to produce surfactin~~ produces 50ppm or less of surfactin in the medium during cultivation.

4. (currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein said microbe is cultivated in a medium containing 0 to 3 mass% mass or less of phosphates, in terms of K_2HPO_4 , is added to the liquid medium.

5. (previously presented): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

6. (previously presented): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

7. (previously presented): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

8. (currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid medium containing 2 mass% mass or more of soybean powder or its extract contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of maltose, starch syrup, soluble starch, dextrin, glucose, sucrose, and fructose.

9. (previously presented): A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.

10. (previously presented): A solid containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by drying the culture as claimed in claim 9.

11. (withdrawn): An agent for preventing plant diseases, comprising the culture containing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

12. (withdrawn): A method for preventing a plant disease, comprising using in an unpurified form the culture containing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

13. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.

14. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

15. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

16. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

17. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

18. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

19. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

20. (withdrawn): A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 2 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.